

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 22, 2004. Claims 38, 44-49, and 51-74 are pending in the Application, Claims 39-43 and 50 stand rejected, and Claim 51 stands objected to as being dependent upon rejected base, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 38, 44-49, and 52-74 have been allowed. The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claim 51 is amended and Claims 39-43 and 50 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present Amendment.

In view of the allowable subject matter, Claim 51 has been amended to recite the subject matter of Claim 50 and to depend from Claim 38. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 51 is now in condition for allowance.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, Claims 39-43 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as recited in Claims 1-5, respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 6,692,096. Cancellation of Claims 39-43 and 50 by the instant Amendment makes this rejection now moot. Its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 38, 44-49, and 51-74 is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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